

Common Council Sidewalk Committee
03 October 2006, Noon
McCloskey Room
401 N. Morton

Memorandum

In attendance:

Committee Members: Dave Rollo, Andy Ruff, Chris Sturbaum and Tim Mayer.

Staff: Rick Alexander (Engineering), Mike Bengtson (Utilities), Steve Cotter (Parks & Recreation), Jane Fleig (Utilities), Susie Johnson (Public Works), Scott Robinson (Planning), Bob Woolford (HAND) & Dan Sherman and Stacy Jane Rhoads (Council Office).

I. Introductions and Selection of the Chair

All in attendance introduced themselves. Tim Mayer nominated Chris Sturbaum to chair the Committee and the Committee approved. Mayer also moved that the Council Office record the proceedings and the Committee endorsed.

II. Organizational Issues

Dan Sherman reminded the Committee that a few members of the Committee met in February 2006 to recommend changes to the 2007 Committee. Among the changes was the agreement that the Committee should try to relieve non-Council staff of the burden of attending so many Committee meetings. Therefore, after each Department offers its report, Department representatives will only be required to attend meetings on an as-needed basis.

III. Reports from Departments

A. Planning

Scott Robinson, Long Range/Transportation Planner, reviewed the City's updated *Sidewalk Inventory*. The *Inventory* documents all of the City's existing sidewalks and is a useful tool for identifying sidewalk needs. Importantly, the document is exclusively quantitative and does not describe the condition nor accessibility of identified sidewalks. The long-term goal of the Planning Department is to build in a qualitative component. Toward that end, Planning will conduct a pilot study before the end of 2007 to assess the feasibility of building in a descriptive element to the *Inventory*.

Robinson noted that the Planning Department conducts a quantitative analysis in the Spring of each year and updates the *Inventory* annually. Robinson reviewed the *Inventory* in four quadrants, highlighting recent changes.

Northeast Quadrant:

Two projects have been implemented along the Third Street Corridor

- Clarizz and Third (near *Bloomingfoods*) and some sidepath improvements have been made to the side of the road as a result of last year's Committee.
- Roosevelt between 4th and 5th (Green Acres)

[Mayer inquired whether the inventory denotes sidewalks installed by developers. Robinson replied that the Inventory is intended to be a comprehensive account of all sidewalks and includes those installed by developers.]

Northwest Quadrant:

- Bloomington North High School & Acuff -- new single-family developments have installed sidewalks.
- Miller-Showers Park – CBU has a current sidewalk project for stormwater on 19th Street.
- 11th Street – Design for a one-block segment funded by last year's Sidewalk Committee.

Southwest Quadrant:

- As part of the Landmark PUD, a new road with sidewalks is being constructed.
- As part of the Millenium Park project, as sidepath is being built.
- Indiana Enterprise Center – new sidewalks included in the construction of a new public street.
- Rockport Road, just south of Guy – new HAND sidepath.
- South Rogers – On the south side of Hillside and north of Rockport – new sidepaths built as a result of new development.
- Tapp Road -- new roundabout accompanied by new sidepaths that tie into the facility.
- S. Walnut (eastside) – a new sidepath is being constructed by a private developer.

Southeast Quadrant:

- 2nd Street (north side) -- Just east of College Mall Road, a new sidewalk.
- East Maxwell Lane – Highland to Sheridan (north side) – designed
- South Dunn – As part of the South Dunn Street Project, the developer is constructing a new road along with sidewalks.
- N. Side of Moore's Pike – As part of the Renwick project, the developer made some off-site improvements on the sidewalk on the north side of Moore's Pike (Winfield).
- Queen's Way from Sussex to High – constructed per 2006 Committee
- Arden – From High to Windsor (south side) -- designed
- Nancy from Ruby to Mark – per 2005 Committee

Sherman asked Robinson to save the discussion on Greenways until the end of the meeting.

B. Parks and Recreation Department

Steve Cotter, Natural Resources Manager, described the Parks and Recreation Department's current alternative transportation projects.

- Lower Cascades. In 2006, a 950 foot-long crushed limestone trail was constructed between the Sycamore Shelter and the Waterfall Shelter in Lower Cascades Park. As part of the renovations, a stop sign was installed at the Clubhouse on Old 37, changing the intersection from a one-way to a three-way stop.
- B-Line Trail. The first phase of the B-Line Trail will be constructed between Rogers Street to just north of 2nd Street. The initial section of paved trail will be 12' wide and .65 miles long.
- Renwick. Developers will construct a .35-mile, 8' wide paved trail between the northeast corner of Southeast Park and Sare Road. Sturbaum inquired about the timeline on the on the Renwick Trail, since the completion of the trail hinges on the sewer work. Cotter replied that Parks and Planning have met with Tim Mueller and are trying to save a couple big trees. Mueller is determining whether it would be possible to shunt a couple of sewer lines around the trees. The trees are large Sycamores sitting atop the sewer lines. Mike Bengtson offered that evaluation shows that these sewers are probably among the leakiest in town. The City's Utilities Department (CBU) tried to get the developer to replace the sewer as part of the development, but the developer tried hard to make its design connect to the downhill element. Sturbaum asked if there might be an interim solution for the balance of the trail, such a fine gravel. Cotter offered that he will consult with Dave Williams and report back to Sturbaum.
- Jackson Creek Trail. Parks and Recreation has received a \$500,000 grant to develop this trail. Currently, Parks is working with landowners just north of Rhorer Road to determine the alignment. It is possible that the trail could be built north of Sherwood Oaks Park before it builds the Rhorer-to-Sherwood Oaks Park stretch. Cotter pointed out that residents on Rock Creek Drive do not endorse the routing of the trail behind their houses; therefore, Parks will run a wide sidepath up the east side of High Street to Arden to connect to Southeast Park. Rollo asked Cotter to elaborate on the plan for Arden. Cotter responded that Parks has not yet decided on how to treat Arden; a consultant recommended continuing the 8' sidepath east on Arden until it hits Southeast Park. Approximately four or five homeowners in this area have very short front yards and prefer a sidepath not be built there. Rollo requested that Cotter keep him updated on any new developments.

C. Housing and Neighborhood Development Department (HAND)

Bob Woolford reviewed HAND's current projects:

- The McDoel Gardens Neighborhood has been funds through CDBG and the Neighborhood Improvement Grant program to restore limestone sidewalks on West Wylie and West Dixie. Mayer pointed out that concrete sidewalks are less expensive; a prudent approach to funding sidewalks might be to allow a certain amount of money for

improvements and then require the neighborhood to fund anything beyond that. Woolford pointed out that the Neighborhood Improvement Grant served as such supplemental funds here.

- Sturbaum asked if Woolford would review the Rogers Street project and how it coordinates with the Rogers/Country Club. Woolford replied that Rogers/Country Club should go on line soon, due to the MPO process. Rogers Street is scheduled to be completed in 2009-2010 and Country Club is due to be completed in 2008.

Johnson pointed out that the process is lengthy due to the time it takes to secure federal funds. If the City includes this project in the MPO process and are awarded federal matching funds, then the federal government will reimburse the City 80% of the construction costs. Johnson stated that such federal funding is a very realistic expectation.

- The Country Club sidepath project has been awarded to Crider and should be completed this year.
- The South Rogers Street sidepath from the Indiana Enterprise Center to Rogers has been completed and funds have been secured for the design of continuing that sidepath from Rogers to approximately Watson.
- Other projects which will probably not be started until 2007 include sidewalks along W. 14th Street and on W. Cottage Grove. These are affordable housing projects and involve repairing existing sidewalks.
- The Bryan and Coolidge Project is another affordable housing project and will involve constructing new sidewalks. These projects will be completed on the availability of Street Department crews.
- Woolford communicated that HAND is interested in partnering with Public Works on other sidewalk projects where possible, such as in improvements along Maple Street between 13th and 17th Streets.

D. Engineering

Rick Alexander, Assistant Manager of Engineering Services addressed other on-going City sidewalk-related projects.

- 10th & Jefferson -- Engineering realigned the approach into town from the bypass to make that turn a little easier for the buses and all other vehicles. (City)
- 1st and N. Walnut -- Sidewalks will be installed by April. (County)
- 2nd and Basswood – A meeting on notice to proceed will be held shortly. Imagine will proceed in the next few weeks.
- The By-pass – Alexander's understanding is that this project has been pushed back to 2009. The first stretch to be constructed will be from the corner of 10th to Pete Ellis, then

10th and the by-pass and then the by-pass. Jerry Gates has gotten permission from the State to cut a new access into the bypass from his 10th and bypass project. A State road, so City does not review it.

- Susie Johnson, Director of Public Works, stated that Pubic Works, CBU and the Planning Department will be submitting a joint application for CDBG funding to initiate the Safe Routes to School program around Templeton and will be asking for funding to build a sidewalk on the west side of Henderson from Hillside to Allen. Public Works also hopes to partner with Greenways and encourages the Sidewalk Committee to partner with them as well. Specifically, Public Works request that the Sidewalk Committee provide funds for the design of this project.
- CBU Engineer, Jane Fleig, stated that funds are provided in the 2007 budget for stormwater work on East 5th Street in the Green Acres Neighborhood from the dead end, to as far a possible, hopefully a couple of blocks based on the plans submitted by Public Works. Dan requested updated estimates for design costs on this project.
- Cotter stated that he and Dave Williams have been working with Bob Cowell and Jason Akin of the Monroe County Planning Department on their alternative transportation projects, especially the Karst from North Park to Vernal project.

IV. Other

Sturbaum pointed out that residents on the Pinehurst Drive cul-de-sac in the Southern Pines development complain of torrential flooding and that this concern appears to be substantiated. Langley is the developer. Sturbaum asked staff to explore how the City might address the problem.

V. 2007 Funds

Dan Sherman stated that 2007 is a hallmark funding year for the Committee. \$200,000 is available in the Alternative Transportation Fund, \$15,000 of which is earmarked for traffic-calming leaving \$185,000 for allocation by the Committee. In addition, Utilities is devoting \$100,000 for stormwater work. As stormwater is often a significant, and costly, component of any sidewalk project, these added funds will allow the Committee realize many more sidewalks in 2007.

Sherman asked how to best handle claims for stormwater work. Johnson replied that the process is simple. As Engineering currently manages the Council's sidewalk projects, as bills for stormwater work come in, Engineering will submit invoices to Utilities. As with all Utilities claims, the Utilities Services Board (USB) will have to approve the claims. Note that the USB will approve the claims, not the projects.

Sherman asked staff to outline any possible design issues that may affect cost.

Sherman asked if any design issues affect costs. Cotter responded that the ADA-required red bricks and dimples on corners add a marginal cost, approximately \$300. Cotter also added that increasing the grade by 1" would make a significant difference and would signal to motorists that the area is a pedestrian walkway and always has some traffic-calming value.

VI. Other Committee Questions

Rollo inquired about the work on Nancy Street. The City had designed the sidewalk, but had to re-design it to widen the street. Rollo offered that widening the street seems to be a mistake as it encourages excessive speed. An alternative to widening the street is to move a gas line; the City just received new designs that would move the gas line. Alexander stated that currently, both the contractor and the gas company are reviewing the plans.

Rollo suggested that the City either keep the street narrow and put in a sidewalk along it or that the street be re-examined in light of new traffic-calming needs. Rollo stated that it would not be prudent to widen the street and create new traffic-calming problems.

Rollo also pointed out the need for a new sidepath on Greenwood Avenue from Covenanter to Greenwood. This is an old sidepath crossing a drainage ditch that is used by residents and children going to school.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of Sidewalk Committee will be on Monday, 16 October 2006, Noon in the McCloskey Room. This meeting will be devoted to discussing criteria, project proposals and recommendations.